Register Your Child

Thursday, February 2, 2017
10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

If your child will be 4 years old by December 31 of this year, he or she will be eligible to attend Kindergarten in September.

To complete registration, you will need your child's:

1. Birth Certificate, Birth Registration or Baptismal Certificate
2. Immunization Card
3. Proof of address

Did you know?

You can download the registration and immunization forms at **dsbn.org/kindergarten**

Bring the completed forms to your local public school and registration will take just a few minutes!

Helping Your Child Get Ready For Kindergarten

The first day of school is an important step for the entire family. Here are some ways you can help your child get off to a good start in school:

- Teach your child new skills through familiar activities, such as counting spoons at the dinner table
- Provide opportunities to engage in indoor and outdoor play and exercise
- Set up an area in your home where your child can sit to do quiet activities
- Take time each day to play with your child and to listen to your child share experiences about their day

I Matter At DSBN

DSBN Kindergarten & Child Care Contact Information

All DSBN Kindergarten Programs are Full-Day

NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE

Crossroads Public School	St. Davids Public School
1350 Niagara Stone Rd NOTL	1344 York Road St Davids
(905) 468-7793	(905) 262-4533
YMCA Child Care	Way to Grow Child Care
(289) 868-8867	(289) 969-6731

Not sure which school your child should attend?

dsbn.org/findaschool

SchoolLocator

Our easy-to-use School Locator can help! Simply type in your address to find the location of your DSBN home school!

Come Prepared to Play!

Join us for our Kindergarten Open Houses!

Thursday, February 2, 2017
10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
dsbn.org/kindergarten

See inside for more information!

DSBN DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF NIAGARA

Come Prepared to Play!

Young children are always on the go. They want to see and do everything.

We think that's wonderful. At the DSBN, our Kindergarten programs are designed to delight, surprise and engage our most curious of learners.

Our programs take place in bright, beautiful spaces and give students more opportunities to learn by doing their life's most important work: playing!

Play helps stimulate children's intellectual growth. Through different kinds of play, children learn how to reason and interact with one another all while building a powerful foundation for a successful school career.

Four Ways Students Succeed

In Kindergarten, students' learning is grouped into four different areas:

1 Belonging & Contributing:

This is where students really begin to explore where they fit into this world. By examining their different relationships, students realize that they matter as community members.

As they engage in play activity with their peers, students learn about the nature of relationships and being connected to one another. They begin to see that they have contributions to make to their group, community and natural world.

2 Self-Regulation &Well-Being

Students matter as individuals. Learning in Kindergarten helps them to become more self-aware and understand their own thinking and feelings.

In Kindergarten students learn important life skills such as the ability to regulate their emotions, adapt to distractions and understand the consequences of their actions.

They also begin to develop an appreciation for their own health and wellness.

3 Demonstrating Literacy & Mathematics Behaviours

In this area, students develop an awareness that they matter as learners. This is where they really begin to show the skills that we typically associate with school.

Students show literacy in the way they use language, pictures and materials to express themselves. Their mathematics skills become evident through students' use of numbers and patterning during play.

4 Problem Solving & Innovating

In Kindergarten, students begin to make sense of their world by asking questions, solving problems and engaging in creative play.

Students get to see how much fun it is to make predictions, test their theories and see what happens!

DSBN DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF NIAGARA

Join us for our Kindergarten Open Houses!

Thursday, February 2, 2017 • 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
dsbn.org/kindergarten

Can't attend on February 2?
Please call your local public school and register at a time that works for you!

The Niagara Advance
www.niagaraadvance.ca
Thursday, January 19, 2017

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Diverse speakers at author series 4

Rockin' Comic Con.

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niagaraadvance.ca

Fish on

FRED MERCNIK/SPECIAL TO POSTMEDIA NETWORK

John Gilliam from Niagara caught this beautiful 10 lb. Rainbow Trout at the mouth of the Niagara River, in Niagara-on-the-Lake The fish are running wild this time of year, and many fishermen are trying their luck catching a big one.

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New CAO annouced for Niagara-on-the-Lake

SUZANNE MASON
POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Holly Dowd, the long-time clerk for Niagara-on-the-Lake, has been appointed chief administrative officer for the town until the end of the year

Dowd has been the interim CAO since the sudden departure of Milena Avramovic last November after six months on the job Council had approved Dowd's temporary appointment up until March 31

Following an in-camera meeting Monday, council voted in favour of Dowd as the new CAO. Previously, the town was looking into hiring a professional firm to conduct a search to fill the position

During budget discussions last December about whether to fill a job opening for a deputy clerk, Dowd informed councillors she will be eligible for retirement in October. The committee decided to keep the deputy clerk position in the budget.

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Hovercraft transport between Niagara and Toronto

SUZANNE MASON
SPECIAL TO POSTMEDIA NETWORK

A hovercraft service on Lake Ontario that would link Niagara-on-the-Lake and St Catharines to Toronto is being proposed by Lake Ontario Express -- a consortium of seven companies and a union

Spokesman Bruno Caciagli outlined the company's plans to bring the service for commuters and tourists at Niagara-on-the-Lake council Monday and requested the town's approval in principle.

Using statistics from a 2011 Go Train study, he said commuters and tourists account for an average of 15,717 highway trips between the Niagara area and Toronto daily. Caciagli said passenger traffic on hovercrafts is projected to be between 980 and 1,660 per day while running concurrently with GO Train service

The water service would include two hovercrafts with a capacity of forty passengers each running 18 hours per day seven days a week. Caciagli said he expected about 60 days per year would be lost due to weather conditions

"They are very fast compared to a conventional marine vessel," he said "They can operate even in some combinations of fog, ice and wind. They make minimal wake or wash."

The cost for a one-way ticket would be $25. The expected crossing times would be 40 minutes from Port Dalhousie and 60 minutes from Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Caciagli said the company hopes to use the pier at Navy Hall owned by Parks Canada in the Old Town and the Port Dalhousie Yacht Club's pier in St Catharines

When asked about the failure of previous companies to successfully run ferry services to Toronto, Caciagli said Lake Ontario Express has done extensive studies on these operations. He said these operations faced two main issues -- they were not using the right type of vessel for the conditions on the lake and they had problems with marketing

Coun. Paolo Miele said the hovercraft service would provide an economic benefit to the town by bringing in more tourists

"I think it's a great idea," he said, adding that residents would also want to give their feedback.

Council declined to offer support in principle for the proposal at this stage and requested that the company contact Parks Canada so the town could have discussions with the agency about the use of the Navy Hall dock.

Caciagli said Lake Ontario Express representatives met with St. Catharines MP Chris Bittle in December and they were told that the proposed water line aligns with the government's priority for transportation infrastructure and the reduction of carbon emissions

United Way
St. Catharines & District

Request for Proposals

Every year, United Way reviews and invests in one of three priority areas. In 2017, applications for funding will be accepted in the **From Poverty to Possibility** priority area for programs serving adults and families living near or below the poverty line.

Applications must demonstrate how the proposed program contributes to one of the following outcomes:

- Increasing employment and financial security
  - o Adults develop assets that increase their employability
  - o Adults and families develop the financial literacy necessary to support independence and stability
- Increasing food security
  - o Adults and families have access to emergency food
  - o Adults and families have access to affordable, nutritious, and appropriate food
- Increasing housing stability
  - o Adults and families have access to supports in emergency shelters
  - o Adults and families have access to supports in acquiring and maintaining safe, secure and affordable housing

Letters of intent will be accepted until Friday February 10, 2017.
Applications will be accepted until Friday March 10, 2017.

For more information, visit.
https://www.unitedwaysc.ca/how-we-help/apply-for-funding

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Old Town development approved

SUZANNE MASON
Special to postmedia network

A townhouse development will go ahead on Anne St in the Old Town after Niagara-on-the-Lake town council reversed its decision from last week to reject it.

While approving the request from Solmar Development Corp for zoning and official plan amendments for 128-174 Anne St. Monday, council reduced the number of housing units from 61 to 58 with the remaining space to be used for parkland.

Solmar went to the Ontario Municipal Board in 2014 and got permission to build a four-storey apartment building with 125 units on the property after council had turned down an application for a five-storey building with 226 units

The company decided to change its plans due to market conditions and applied for a townhouse development instead last fall. Last week, Coun. Maria Bau-Coote suggested that council not approve the project unless the town's urban design committee has agreed with the building plans.

Craig Larmour, director of community and development services, said Monday that developers do not normally provide architectural drawings with zoning and official plan amendment applications. He said Solmar met with the urban design committee twice last year and has expressed a willingness to incorporate their recommendations into the building designs.

A motion by Coun. Betty Disero to defer the application for a further review of the proposed plans by the urban design committee was defeated.

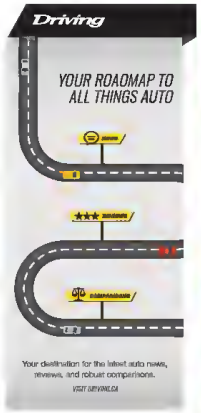
Coun. Martin Mazza said there are currently 19 homes on Anne St. with two more under construction

"I don't know how that (townhouses) blends in well on that street," he said. "We don't have to give in. Let's give the residents something they are happy with."

Bau-Coote said "something has to be done on Anne St," and she urged council to "tread very lightly" as the developer has worked with town staff and listened to the residents.

Coun. Terry Flynn said there is market for this type of housing for people who want to downsize, pointing to several other similar developments in the community.

"We don't want every site plan to come back to this table," said Flynn, but councillors agreed that they want staff to bring the drawings for this application to council for approval



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JANUARY 21 @ 3PM
Mustang (subtitles)
Five orphan girls are seen innocently
result their scandalized conservative guardians confine them while marriages are arranged. A powerful film that criticizes a society that sexualizes everything women do.
JANUARY 27 @ 6PM
Oscar Peterson: Keeping the Groove Alive
From the dance halls of Montreal to the concert halls of the world, this documentary delves into the life of Oscar Peterson and how he became an internationally renowned jazz pianist who entertained the world with his mastery of the piano.
JANUARY 25 @ 3PM
An intimate drama about a new pair of best friends who have their bond tested by their parents' battle over a dress shop lease. Greg Kinnear, Jennifer Ehle and Alfred Molina star.
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Author series brings diverse writers to town

KRIS DUBE
Special to Postmedia Network

A love of literature is the focus of a new monthly event taking place in town.

The Hotel Dallavalle Authors Series will bring some of the world's best writers of contemporary literature to Niagara-on-the-Lake for monthly events to showcase the best written works in the literary world. An Evening with the Author will feature a meet and greet cocktail hour, a reading of the author's published works, a multi-course themed dinner by Hotel Dallavalle's Bella Vita Ristorante and book signing.

The first installment takes place this Saturday at the historic restaurant on Queen Street and will feature Nicholas Mainieri, author of *The Infinite*, which has received glowing reviews from the *New York Times*, *Los Angeles Review*, *Publisher's Weekly* and various celebrated authors.

"It's one of those books you can't put down at night and can't wait to get back to," said Rob Egan, director at Hotel Dallavalle and co-organizer of the author series.

Mainieri, a New Orleans-based author and literature professor at Nicholls State University says he is thrilled to be headed to Niagara-on-the-Lake.

"This will be my first trip to Canada for the book and I'm looking forward to sharing it," he said in a recent phone interview.

The Infinite is a story set on the U.S.-Mexico border and touches on themes like love, loss and redemption.

Mainieri will take guests on a heart-pounding, heart-rending adventure that spans from the Southern Gulf to Northern Mexico.

The event's menu features inspired cuisine from the south as well as Niagara Icewine. Cost is $95 and includes Icewine cocktail meet and greet with the author, author reading from *The Infinite*, multi-course meal with Icewine and book signing.

The series' second event will take place Fri. Jan. 24 at the same location as organizers welcome Canadian historian Karolyn Smardz Frost, winner of the Governor General's Award for English-language non-fiction in 2007 for *I've Got a Home in Glory Land: A Lost Tale of the Underground Railroad*.

KRIS DUBE/SPECIAL TO POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Rob Egan and Colleen Petrick, organizers of an author series at Dallavalle Hotel. The monthly event opens this Saturday at 6 p.m.

At the end of the month, during her visit to Niagara-on-the-Lake, she will also be promoting her new book *Steal Away Home: One Woman's Epic Flight to Freedom - And Her Long Road Back to the South*.

For more information, visit www.hoteldallavalle.com or phone 905-468-3263. Space is limited and reserving a spot is recommended.

Town to go ahead with UNESCO application

SUZANNE MASON
Special to Postmedia Network

Niagara-on-the-Lake will be applying to Parks Canada to get on the tentative list for a chance to be designated as a world heritage site through UNESCO.

Town council decided Monday to go ahead with the application that is due Jan. 27 after expressing concerns last week about the potential cost for the process.

Local UNESCO committee member David Hemmings said if the town is placed on the tentative list for Canada, it would likely cost between $75,000 and $100,000 over a four to five year period to apply to UNESCO. He based his estimate on what the City of Ottawa paid for the designation process for the Rideau Canal-the only UNESCO site in Ontario.

Fundraising by volunteers and applications for grants to provincial and federal agencies are expected to pay for most of the costs if an application to UNESCO goes ahead, said Hemmings.

The town gave the committee $30,000 to complete the application to Parks Canada, but only half of that amount was spent.

Hemmings also said the committee decided to remove all of the 68 private properties, the docks and the Niagara-on-the-Lake Golf Club's clubhouse from the Parks Canada application. He said the committee is seeking designation for landscape heritage only and the two waterways, Lake Ontario and the Niagara River, are also excluded from the mapping.

Parks Canada will make a decision in December on the nomination of Canadian sites for consideration by UNESCO, which stands for United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. If Niagara-on-the-Lake makes the tentative list, the town will then decide whether or not to apply to UNESCO for a World Heritage Designation.

TEAM	W	L	T	P	CAPTAIN
BRUINS	3	9	3	9	IAN PAUL
CANADIENS	2	9	4	8	STEVE PARKINSON
HAWKS	8	6	1	17	JIM VANDERZALM
LEAFS	6	9	0	12	JOHN FEDERKOW
RANGERS	8	5	2	18	DAVE TELFORD
WINGS	12	1	2	26	PHIL STEVENSON

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Important Information If You Have Recently Sold Your Home?

For many years homeowners have not paid tax on the increase in value from the sale of their principal residence. Things have changed. New rules provide that for all such sales in 2016 or later, the tax exemption will only apply if details of the sale are reported on your tax return. So, if you sold your home in 2016, or are planning to sell it in the future - make sure the sale details are reported on your next tax return. For further details visit our website: lbwlawyers.com, or contact any of our real estate lawyers for more information on how this important change affects you at 905.641.1551.

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Newark Neighbours reaches a milestone

The Newark Neighbours Board of Directors are pleased to report that the Newark Neighbours by-laws has been successfully reviewed in detail.

A copy of the revised by-laws will be sent to any and all paid members for review in advance of the special by-laws meeting, scheduled for Friday Feb. 10 at 2 p.m. in the Mary Snider Room at the Virgil Arena. Discussion and voting on these by-laws will be the only item on the agenda at this meeting. A lawyer will be present to answer any questions we can't answer. This meeting will be a milestone moment for Newark Neighbours.

The original 1972 Newark Neighbours by-laws were reviewed by several dedicated board members over the years. Edits on the revised drafts were never ratified (i.e. voted upon and sanctioned by membership). The current by-law committee took the 1972 by-laws and any and all revised copies, reassessed the content, made some additional edits, then sought legal advice in order to develop a new 2017 Newark Neighbours by-laws draft. This involved several hours of dedication by the Newark Neighbours by-laws committee and legal council to ensure that the 2017 draft appropriately addressed all requirements in operating a charity in today's world.

> **"The current by-law committee took the 1972 by-laws and any and all revised copies, reassessed the content, made some additional edits, then sought legal advice in order to develop a new 2017 Newark Neighbours by-laws draft."**

As a result of this recent review we now have a more up to date comprehensive by-laws document. Through this process the board also unanimously voted to increase the volunteer membership fee from $2 to $10. This is an incremental increase if you consider there has never been a fee change in 45 years. Back then a coffee was less than 25 cents! Even if the fees were updated by each year by 25 cents since 1972, the volunteer/membership fee would be $13.25 in 2017. So, we feel the $10.00 fee is reasonable and realistic.

The new fee brings us up to today's cost of running a board, meetings (special topic meetings and the AGM), elections and our charity operations. Our volunteer/membership income also contributes to any necessary purchases to augment community donations to the food bank.

In order to qualify to vote for the new by-laws draft at the February 10 meeting, you must be a fully paid member on or before Jan. 31, 2017. This is so that we can send you the by-laws draft in time for you to review in preparation for the by-laws meeting.

If you are not a member and want to join, or are renewing your membership you can pick up a membership form at Newark Neighbours during our working hours or email Hillary Bellis at hbellis@hotmail.com to request a membership form.

Complete the form and submit payment (cash or cheque only please) and return with payment. You can drop it off in person in a sealed envelop at Newark Neighbours, or mail to: Newark Neighbours, 310 John St. East, P.O. Box 1090, Niagara on the Lake, L0S 1J0.

Paid memberships received on or before Jan. 31, 2017 will be eligible to vote on the by-laws.

We are asking for your continued support and thank you in advance for being a committed and loyal volunteer/member of Newark Neighbours. Stay tuned for more. Information about our upcoming AGM meeting on March 29, 2017.

Newark board of directors

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The Niagara Advance

Angus Scott regional editor
Penny Coles Editor

Managing a prickly garden

MARLA PERCY
Gardening Tips

Last week I suggested growing herbs in water as a way to do something with plants to pass the month of January and of course, to have fresh herbs

So I brought home some fresh sprigs of thyme and oregano to see if this would really work. I followed instructions and set them up in a sunny place, but so far it is like watching paint dry — not a root can be seen, though the leaves are still alive.

What was I thinking? That I'd be begging all and sundry to please take some of this oregano off my hands? Patience is the operative word and any success will be loudly proclaimed at a later date.

At this time of year I'd really rather be reading mysteries than garden books, or watching Rosemary and Thyme for the umpteenth time, as there is never any snow or ice on those shows. But, I did run across one garden tip which might be helpful in March when you start to prune. If you have pyracantha, barberry, holly or any other plant with rude thorns, of course, wear thick gloves and protective clothing. But these plants do tend to be dense, so also use your barbeque tongs to hold up a branch to be pruned so you don't have to lean too far into the plant.

Many of you have been watching the action around our area as the town proceeds to rid us of our dead and dying ash trees. There will be many more 'enlightened' areas next spring. There is a dying ash in my back garden that provides the only shade for our deck, so sadly it will have to go. We knew this when we moved in, so we planted a lovely katsura tree nearby and figured it would by now be large enough to throw some shade.

We'd had one in our old garden and really fell in love with its leaves and colours. However, it didn't take to the site and last year we had to pull out the pathetic little fellow. Having done some research, it was probably in a spot too windy for it to thrive.

Now the ash is in far worse shape and we are looking for a fast- growing tree that will survive harsh winds. The easiest solution is to plant a maple, but we have two maples on the property and since we live in the Carolinian forest area, we thought it would be nice to have something more exotic. Not to mention there isn't much forest left in this area, so it might be a good idea to put at least one tree back. So the search has begun.

A horse chestnut grows to be 80 feet tall and needs moisture retentive soil. Though they are beautiful, I don't want to leave the next owner of my house with a tree that size (though the primitive part of my brain whispers, 'who cares, you won't be here to see the problem').

The other problem is, they are fairly slow-growing. By the time I can put my rocking chair under it, I won't be able to move my rocking chair. Then I looked at shagbarked hickories. Fabulous bark, but their taproot is so long you can only transplant them when they are a year or two old. That means most of my perennials will be taller, and there's the rocking chair problem again. Then I thought a tulip tree would be stunning even though potentially too tall for the site, but found out it wouldn't flower for about 20 years. A recent significant birthday made me realize the impracticality of this one, too.

Red oaks are apparently fast-growing and their leaves, if shredded make good mulch. The problem of which tree to choose for the site is a little like buying a bathing suit. Each looks quite fantastic until you actually try it on. Perhaps a trellised vine would create the shade I want. I'm putting the whole problem on hold and am going back to my mysteries or a good Monty Don rerun.

Just a reminder that the Niagara-on-the-Lake Horticultural Society starts up again for a new year next Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. for coffee and 7 p.m. for the meeting. The meetings take place in the auditorium of the Community Centre and all are welcome. Our speaker this month is William Rowan of Rosewood Wine Estates whose topic is, 'A Year in the Life of a Beekeeper'.

As well, there will be a trip to Canada Blooms again this year on Wednesday, March 15. The cost is $40 for members and $45 for non-members, which covers the entrance fee and the bus. The bus leaves from the Virgil Arena at 8:30 a.m. and leaves Toronto at 4:30 p.m., back to Virgil by 6 p.m.

It's always a wonderful way to greet the spring. If you are interested, contact Donna Carter via email carter11@sympatico.ca

DEREK RUTTAN/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

A leaf floats to earth after unhinging from a maple tree.

HOW TO CONTACT US

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OUR LETTERS POLICY

To be considered for publication, all letters must include the writer's full name, address and telephone number for verification purposes.
Only your name and the city/town where you live will be published.
Please keep your comments to a maximum of 500 words.
Submit your letters via e-mail to: penny.coles@sunmedia.ca

Comment

Vomiting pet could require immediate veterinary care

Vomiting is one of the most common reasons pets are brought in by their owners for a visit with their veterinarian.

A day does not go by in my veterinary hospital that we are not dealing with a vomiting animal. Usually an owner witnesses the vomiting episode, but other times the pile of vomitus is found later, either visually or by someone's bare feet — not an uncommon occurrence.

Vomiting must be differentiated from regurgitation. Vomiting is preceded by a period of nausea and restlessness, followed by retching before any stomach contents are produced.

Cats especially are very dramatic with yowling and full body retching, which can levitate an owner out of bed in an instance in the middle of the night. You really need to be a cat owner to appreciate the performance!

Partially digested food with saliva and bile will be produced when an animal vomits.

Regurgitation produces undigested food material, sometimes directly from the esophagus, immediately after eating, and will often occur fairly quietly in dogs. The food is usually immediately brought back up.

Your pet may attempt to eat regurgitated food, but will walk away from actual vomited material. The difference is important to understand so your veterinarian can narrow down the possible cause.

Always have a close look at the contents that are vomited so you can describe it accurately to your veterinarian.

If the vomitus is black, like coffee grounds, this can indicate bleeding in the stomach (digested blood).

Are there flecks of fresh blood in it? Is there bile? Are there pieces of an unusual material in the vomitus, like plant material or plastic or bones?

Photos or videos also help when trying to determine the cause of the vomiting.

Your veterinarian will ask you questions on how long the vomiting has been going on, the frequency of vomiting, what the diet is, and if there has been any diet change. Be sure to mention if the pet has been given any over-the-counter meds, or if the pet could have or was seen eating anything unusual, including possible medications that members of the household are on.

One of the most common causes of vomiting is dietary indiscretion, commonly referred to as "garbage gut," especially in dogs.

Did your pet have access to the trash, compost pile, mushrooms, neighbouring yards or farms, or recently dumped items (like grease from a kitchen, or mouldy bread tossed for the birds)?

Dogs and cats allowed to roam unfortunately have a greater chance of eating incorrect items, and it may be more difficult to diagnose the source.

Foreign material can cause an irritation to the stomach, which results in gastritis (gastro, meaning stomach, itis, meaning inflammation).

Foreign objects can cause an obstruction at either the level of the stomach or further along in the small intestine. Pets that have obstructions will repeatedly vomit and regurgitate food and water immediately after attempting to eat.

Cats are attracted to eating linear objects such as thread, yarn and straight needles. Yes, they actually attempt to swallow straight needles, which can become embedded in the mouth, esophagus, stomach or anywhere along the intestinal tract.

Dogs on the other hand will swallow just about anything — small rubber balls, plastic toys and clothing articles (including socks, pantyhose and underwear) are the most common, but rocks, corn cobs and coins are seen as well.

Vomiting is not just associated with problems with the stomach and intestines, but there may be a problem with one of the internal organs like the pancreas, liver or kidney.

The list of causes of vomiting is long.

Along with a physical examination, diagnostic tests may be necessary. Bloodwork, urinalysis, X-rays and ultrasound can all be utilized, and help to pinpoint the cause and the proper treatment.

In-hospital intravenous fluids and medications are the best treatment, since a vomiting animal cannot keep anything down orally and is often dehydrated.

Vomiting can be a serious clinical sign of a problem that is happening inside your pet. Do not wait — call your veterinarian for advice.

Domestic pets are like children and dehydrate very rapidly once vomiting starts and water cannot stay down. There are some medical conditions that cause chronic vomiting that are not life-threatening but still need medical management.

More frequently, vomiting is a sign of a serious problem and early intervention is always the best.

We have all experienced nausea and vomiting due to the flu or other causes, and we know how distressing it can be. Your pet will feel the same.

Pets do not vocalize their discomfort and may seem to be just quiet after a vomiting episode. Don't wait too long: early intervention with vomiting is always the best.

— Ron Mergl is a veterinarian with a practice in Niagara Falls.

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Gabba Gabba Hey, a Ramone heading to Falls Comic Con

JOHN LAW
Postmedia network

The Niagara Falls Comic Con will beat on the brat this June.

Marky Ramone, a 15-year member of punk legends The Ramones, has been announced for all three days of the sixth annual Comic Con, June 2 to 4 at Scotiabank Convention Centre in Niagara Falls.

"This is the first time we're bringing in a musician to the event as a celebrity guest, and the response has been huge," says co-organizer and co-founder Chris Dabrowski.

"This won't be the last appearance by a rock legend at Comic Con."

While not an original member, Marky (real name: Marc Steven Bell) replaced drummer Tommy in 1978, in time to record The Ramones' classic fourth album *Road to Ruin*.

Marky Ramone

He played with the band for five years, appearing with them in the cheesy musical *Rock and Roll High School*, before he was asked to leave in 1983 because of a drinking problem.

He returned clean and sober four years later and was The Ramones' drummer until their retirement in 1996. He played more than 1,700 shows and recorded 10 albums with the band.

He's one of only three surviving members of The Ramones through the years. The original lineup (Joey, Johnny, Dee Dee and Tommy) all died between 2001 and 2014. He, along with the original four members, were inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2002.

Among other bands Ramone has drummed for are the Misfits, Dust, and Richard Hell & The Voidoids.

Dabrowski is thrilled to bring punk rock royalty to town.

"If you grew up in the '80s or '90s, there's no doubt you've heard a song by The Ramones," he says. "Even today they are played heavily on-air — they're music icons."

Other confirmed guests for Comic Con include Peter Mayhew (Chewbacca), horror legend Robert Englund (*A Nightmare on Elm Street*), Barbara Eden (*I Dream of Jeannie*), Jason Mewes (*Clerks*), Seth Gilliam (*The Walking Dead*) and wrestlers Sting, Kevin Nash and Scott Hall.

For tickets visit www.nfcomiccon.com.

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2017 Water and Wastewater Rates

The Council of The Corporation of the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake approved the amended water and wastewater rates, effective January 1, 2017.

For further information about water and wastewater billing, please visit the Town's website at www.notl.org or call the Operations Department at 905-468-3278

Effective January 1, 2017
Water Rates
The monthly billing amount shall be calculated based on the **Fixed Charge per the following schedule:**

Meter Size (Inches)	Fixed Charge
Up to ¾"	$23.11
1"	$32.37
1 ½"	$41.61
2"	$67.04
3"	$254.29
4"	$323.64
6"	$485.46
8"	$670.40
10"	$924.68

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Effective January 1, 2017
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The monthly billing amount shall be calculated based on the **Fixed Charge per the following schedule:**

Meter Size (Inches)	Fixed Charge
Up to ¾"	$25.55
1"	$35.76
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4"	$357.63
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Highway congestion not an issue in Niagara: CAA study

RAY SPITERI
Postmedia network

Rush-hour traffic only adds five to six minutes to daily drive times on certain highway stretches in Niagara, according to a new study by the Canadian Automobile Association.

The study, which focuses on highway traffic, is the first of its kind undertaken nationally by CAA.

"As you might suspect, the study confirms Niagara enjoys substantially fewer traffic snarls than other municipalities," said Rick Mauro, CAA Niagara's vice-president of marketing and public relations.

"It's fair to say that Niagara's rush hour is really just rush minutes. In Toronto, traffic congestion adds 36 minutes to the daily commute. We're lucky we don't have to hatle heavy highway congestion every day."

The CAA study, Grinding to a Halt, Evaluating Canada's Worst Bottlenecks, confirmed these statistics for Niagara.

Highway congestion between 7 a.m. and 9 a.m. adds six minutes to the commute along Highway 405, Stanley Avenue to Queenston-Lewiston Bridge; QEW, Gilmore Road to Peace Bridge, QEW, between Lake Street and Niagara Street.

Highway congestion between 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. adds five minutes to the commute along Highway 405, Stanley Avenue to Queenston-Lewiston Bridge, QEW, Gilmore Road to Peace Bridge.

According to the study, congestion and traffic bottlenecks are the biggest contributors to road delay, far outpacing traffic accidents, bad weather and construction.

Traffic is also a major source of stress for Canadians. Canada's top 20 traffic bottlenecks are in Toronto, Montreal, Vancouver and Quebec City and collectively cost drivers more than 11.5-million hours of their time every year and burn an extra 267-million litres of fuel per year.

"Congestion can play a negative impact on the quality of life," said Alex Pedersen, public relations co-ordinator for CAA Niagara.

"Because in Niagara we don't have that congestion, people are spending less time in their cars, meaning they're able to be more productive at work, but they're also able to spend more time outside of work with their families. They're getting home at a relatively decent hour."

Being virtually free of highway traffic congestion "definitely contributes to a higher level of productivity," said Mauro.

"I know that when I have those occasions where I need to go into Toronto and I need to bring my car, your state of mind is completely different if you come by car and you're stuck in congestion," he said.

Mauro said he and Pedersen "had the pleasure" of re-locating back to Niagara for work from the Greater Toronto Area, so they're no strangers to how congestion can snarl traffic.

Pedersen said it's no surprise Toronto has more bottlenecks since it has a larger population.

Continued Page 11

MIKE DIBATTISTA/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

A study by the Canadian Automobile Association says Niagara enjoys substantially fewer traffic snarls than other municipalities.The stretch along Highway 405, Stanley Avenue to Queenston-Lewiston Bridge was part of that study.

Highway congestion not an issue in Niagara: CAA study

Continued From Page 10

"There are also more jobs in Toronto, so you're finding that more people are commuting from the Hamilton area to Toronto, which causes congestion and bottlenecks as well," she said.

Mauro said the short piece of the QEW in St. Catharines, as well as those entrance areas to the international bridges, were the only areas where CAA found congestion along Niagara highways.

He said the study focused only on highways and didn't include traffic on municipal and regional roads.

Mauro said another study focusing on non-highway areas is "definitely something that bears reviewing".

"For this study, given its breadth, that just was something that wasn't possible."

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7 GORING WAY $924,000

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275 FOUR MILE CREEK $689,000

Updated, mid-century home backing on to ravine/creek lot. The chef-inspired country kitchen is the hub of this recently updated home. The open concept dining and living areas flow easily from the kitchen making it equally suited for family living or entertaining MLS 30640734. Marilyn Francis.

21 VINCENT AVENUE $849,000

This "picture perfect" Cape Cod home is a real find just steps away from Lake Ontario, Ryerson park and beautiful sunsets. E njoy this private pavilion home features two bedrooms, three baths Gas fireplace, gorgeous updated kitchen garage with potting shed. Could be purchased with neighbouring home, MLS 30561969 Victoria Bolduc and Sarah Gledhill

15716 NIAGARA RIVER PARKWAY $1,595,000

A country estate property with scenic views of vineyards and the Niagara River and set on a treed yard with private pool area, tennis courts and pool house. Main floor offers grand formal principle rooms incl. long updated kitchen, family room with fireplace, formal living room, formal dining room with fireplace, study, updated bathroom and powder room main floor master ensuite. Upper level consists of 4 additional bedrooms and 4 piece bathroom. Detached double garage. MLS# 30552987 Thomas Elliott and Kim Elliott.

8 DIXIE AVENUE $789,000

Updated mid century home located in popular Chautauqua area close to lake and parks. This bungalow offers convenient main floor living with an open concept floor plan. Sliding doors in both the kitchen and the master bedroom open to a large back deck overlooking hot tub and in ground pool. Situated on a double wide lot a stone shed area with surrounding mature trees. Exclusive. Thomas Elliott and Kim Elliott

96 GARRISON VILLAGE DRIVE $749,000

The beautiful Georgian style end unit town home overlooks Niagara's vineyards and is located in the newly planned community known as The Village. The 7 year old brick home with many upgrades is characterized by 23 windows, 10' ceilings on the main floor and offers an open concept great room and kitchen with breakfast nook. Large light filled dining room is perfect for entertaining. Situated in an excellent neighborhood offering a host of amenities within walking distance Exclusive Thomas Elliott and Kim Elliott

229 VICTORIA STREET $849,000

Well maintained home in great downtown location just steps from the main street. This charming home provides modern conveniences with updated kitchen and bathrooms & a bright eat-in kitchen. Features include: gas fireplace with antique mantel French doors & windows and beautiful trim. Private garden is nicely landscaped. Tom Elliott and Kim Elliott

1573 FOUR MILE CREEK ROAD $789,000

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235 SIMCOE STREET $950,000

This beautiful Georgian style home circa 1828 has been impeccably restored and is complimented by all the amenities of today. Many wonderful features include five elegance, quality and style. Cedar shake roof (2016) MLS 30532060. Bonnie Grimm or Victoria Bolduc.

263 REGENT STREET $887,000

Wonderful historic gem! Circa 1820. Located within walking distance to the Lake, theatres, restaurants and shopping. 2040 sq. ft. of beautifully updated space 4 bedrooms, 4 ensuite bathrooms all of which have been [illegible] although in the last twelve years has been an extremely successful Bed and Breakfast. MLS 30643775. Chris Bourne or Audrey Wright.

THE VINTAGES – LOT #5

This Model The "Montrachet" will have a grand foyer, the Great Room comes with 11 foot ceilings. The Master Suite features a large walk-in and opulent ensuite. The extra large second Bedroom /Den will make a Perfect Home Office or [illegible] The new Vintages of Virgil is ready for your alterations and edits. View floor plan on virtual tour. Exclusive. Randy Armstrong

137 FOUR MILE CREEK ROAD $629,000

A one of a kind home in much desired St Davids excellent access to Niagara-on-the-lake Niagara Falls 3 golf courses. Fondly known as the grist mill of 1782 it offers a delightful mix of modern renovations. MLS# N3045774. Cheryl Carmichael, Randy Armstrong.

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Pink hats and women's rights march

For more information on the march, contact Laure Ip, resource development co-ordinator at the YWCA at lip@ywcaniagararegion.ca. Hats need to be collected at the YWCA St. Catharines office, by Wednesday, Jan. 18. More information can be found of Facebook, Women's March on Washington – Niagara.

The YWCA is organizing a march Saturday, simultaneously with the Women's March on Washington to give voice to women's rights. Left to right, Erion Good, Jennifer Bonato, Nicki Inch, Elisabeth Zimmermann and Kaitlyn Samways. Locally they are hoping to make 200 knitted pink hats 100 of which will be sent to Washington

Pink hats needed for women's rights march

The YWCA is co-ordinating the local march which begins at St. Catharines City Hall at 10 a.m.

The group of women will march to St. Catharines MP Chris Bittle's office, where marchers will listen to a series of speakers, as well as have a chance to speak up themselves, says Inch.

In the days leading up to the march, the hope is to have local women knit or crochet some 200 pink hats.

Local organizers are hoping to draw at least 100 women to the march. They will each wear a pink hat, a symbolic gesture of unity, she says.

The other 100 hats will be sent to Washington, to be worn by women in the march there, as a show of solidarity, says Inch. It's a way for Niagara women to contribute to an objective of the Washington march, to have every woman there wearing a pink hat, says

CONTINUED > PAGE 26

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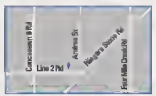

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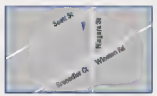

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Gates talks 'crisis' hydro rates for Niagara

RAY SPITERI
Postmedia network

Hydro rates ft dominated the provincial discourse in 2016 and it's likely to be the No. 1 issue at Queen's Park in 2017, says Niagara Falls NDP MPP Wayne Gates.

"ft'aa crisis. ft'a got to get fixed," he said.

"We're the only party that came out from Day 1 and said don't sell any of it, stop the sale of Hydro One.

(Liberal Premier Kathleen Wynne) can't defend the incredible hardship that the government is putting on seniors, single moms, single dads, families, small business, medium size business Manufacturers are looking to invest or move their whole operations out of the province of Ontario because of the hydro rates"

Despite being an opposition MPP, Gates said he was able to accomplish many positive things for his riding in 2016

He brought a motion forward calling on the government to immediately take steps to shorten MRI wait times in Niagara.

After hearing from constituents, Gates approached Niagara Health officials to address the issue before explaining to his Queen's Park colleagues wait timea for an MRI in Niagara far exceed the provincial average

The government subsequently provided Niagara Health with $1.6 million to, in part, begin clearing the backlog of patients waiting to receive MRIs.

Provincial funding allowed for an additional 2,000 hours to run Niagara Health's two MRI machines.

"People have already been called and have had their wait times moved up," said Gates, adding he's still advocating for Niagara Health to get a third MRI machine.

He said the MRI issue is an example of how an MPP doesn't have to be a member of the government to make a difference for his constituents.

"When I brought this motion forward, it was unanimously supported Speaker after speaker from both parties stood up and said this is the exact type of issue that an MPP should be raising about his constituency."

CONTINUED > PAGE 22

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Niagara Falls NDP MPP Wayne Gates says he was pleased with what he was able to accomplish for his constituents in 2016 and plans to do more of the same in 2017.

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Gates hopes to stay the course

CONTINUED FROM > PAGE 20

Gates said he stood up and opposed rising drug costs for seniors and went door-to-door to have residents sign a petition against increases.

"It proved that if you stand up, the government sometimes has to listen. It energized seniors right across the province and they backed down on that. That was a major win for seniors in our community who couldn't afford it."

Gates said he was touched by the story of Niagara couple Clarence and Jessie Terpstra, aged 93 and 92, who needed long-term care but were forced to be separated due to bed shortages.

He said after hearing about the issue, he worked with the minister of health to have the couple reunited at the same home, in time to celebrate their 70th wedding anniversary.

"The separation was taking its toll on their health but now they'll be able to spend these years happily together," he said. "I think every senior in Ontario has earned that."

Gates said moving forward, he will advocate for the province to do more to promote arts and culture.

"If you take a look at what's transpiring right across my riding with the number of festivals that we're having, it's so important to utilize the arts and culture in our community. It's good for tourism, creates jobs and gives people another reason to come to Niagara."

Gates said he will continue to push the province to fast-track proposals for a new south Niagara hospital on the outskirts of Niagara Falls and for regular GO train service to the Honeymoon Capital.

CONTINUED > PAGE 26

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Gates hopes to stay the course

CONTINUED FROM > PAGE 22

Plans call for the hospital to be built by 2023, as for the arrival of year-round GO trains, but Gates wants to see both come to fruition sooner

He will also advocate for "local trades people, local engineers and local businesses" to be responsible for the construction of the south Niagara hospital

Gates said while the Fort Erie Race Track enjoyed another solid season in 2016 with increased wager figures, he wants the government to back more race dates and more gaming offerings at the site in the future.

Gates said he also wants the government to do more to support the province's emerging craft beer and cider industry, and is working on a wine bill to get more local wines in LCBO stores.

rspiteri@postmedia.com
Twitter: @RaySpiteri

NIAGARAADVANCE.CA

MIKE DIBATTISTA/NIAGARA FALLS REVIEW/POSTMEDIA NETWORK FILE PHOTO

Niagara Falls NDP MPP Wayne Gates says he was pleased with what he was able to accomplish for his constituents in 2016 and plans to do more of the same in 2017.

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Pink hats needed for women's rights march

BOB TYMCZYSZYN/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Tuesday January 10, 2017. Left to right, Erion Good, Jennifer Bonato, Nicki Inch, Elisabeth Zimmermann and Kaitlyn Samways. Locally they are hoping to make 200 knitted pink hats 100 of which will be sent to Washington.

CONTINUED FROM > PAGE18

The YWCA is co-ordinating the local march which begins at St. Catharines City Hall at 10 a.m.

The group of woman will march to St. Catharines MP Chris Bittle's office, where marchers will listen to a series of speakers, as well as have a chance to speak up themselves, says Inch.

In the days leading up to the march, the hope is to have local women knit or crochet some 200 pink hats

Local organizers are hoping to draw at least 100 women to the march. They will each wear a pink hat, a symbolic gesture of unity, she says

The other 100 hats will be sent to Washington, to be worn by women in the march there, as a show of solidarity, says Inch. It's a way for Niagara women to contribute to an objective of the Washington march, to have every woman there wearing a pink hat, says Inch

Woman are also able to send a note of support with their hats

The hats will make for a powerful, visual statement. A sea of pink. Together, united, says Inch.

Patterns for the hats are found on the project's website - The Pussyhat Project. And yes, its name is a play on words, reclaiming a derogatory term for female genitalia as a means of empowerment.

Laura Ip, resource development co-ordinator at the YWCA, said the march is a statement of support for all women

"It's an opportunity for women to take leadership and responsibility and have a voice," she says.

"We won't be complacent. When we feel our rights are threatened we will stand up for them."

"It's collaborative and about celebrating sisterhood," says Inch.

"I'm proud to be living in a country where this sort of behaviour is looked down up," she says.

"I'm very grateful we live in a community that feels this is wrong"

Cclock@postmedia.com

Niagara-on-the-Lake Worship Directory

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1433 York Road, St. Davids
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www.stdavids-queensmnuc.ca
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www.jewishstcatharines.com

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1570 Niagara Stone Rd.
www.ccchurch.ca • 905-468-7155
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10 am Worship Gathering & Kids Ministry
Message: Kevin Bayne, Pastor
Title: Illness for the Glory of God

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8:30 am Holy Eucharist
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Priest/Pastor Father William Roberts
www.stmark1792.com

VILLAGE Bible Church
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Niagara-on-the-Lake
905-688-2525
Sunday, January 22nd
10:00 am Coffee Time
10:30 am Worship Service
Village Kidz (ages 1 - grade 5)
#butisay:
Divorce and Remarriage
Pastor Greg Alderton
www.villagebiblechurch.ca

life abundant niagara
Pastor Rick Mills
394 Grascen 7 Rd
905 688 3958
Sunday, January 22nd
Kingdom Come
Message: Kingdom Speak
9:30AM coffee 10:30AM worship
info@lifeabundantniagara.com
www.lifeabundantniagara.com

Live Life With Us
11:00 am Worship Service
Niagara United Mennonite Church
1775 Niagara Stone Road NOTL
(905) 468-3313 | nedbrickchurch.ca
Pastors: David Lewis & Stephen Cox

www.orchardparkbiblechurch.org
ORCHARD PARK BIBLE CHURCH
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905-468-5731
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DUNLOP, William "Bill" -
Passed away at the Orillia Soldiers Memorial Hospital on Friday January 13th, 2017, in his 91st year. Bill Dunlop Midland formerly of Toronto, beloved husband of the late Doris Mary Dunlop (Cameron). Beloved father of Kenneth William Dunlop. Brother of Gladys (Don) Anslow of Niagara Falls, ON and the late Marion (Tom) Phillips. Cremation has taken place. A Celebration of Life will be held in May, 2017 in Port McNicoll. Arrangements entrusted to the **NICHOLLS FUNERAL HOME** 330 Midland Ave., Midland, ON L4R 3K7. If desired, memorial donations to the Friends of Keewatin would be appreciated.

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MICHELLE ALLENBERG/WELLAND TRIBUNE/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

A bald eagle is transferred into a crate at The Owl Foundation in Vineland on Sunday to be taken to Chippawa Creek Conservation Centre in Wellandport for release.

Freedom returns to bald eagle

MICHELLE ALLENBERG
Postmedia Network

After a journey from Ottawa and months of rehabilitation, a bald eagle flew free last Sunday morning at Chippawa Creek Conservation Centre in Wellandport.

In October the young female was found in Ottawa with a fish hook in her stomach and three pellet shots in her body. The eagle also had two soft fractures. She received medical treatment in Ottawa at the Wild Bird Centre before heading to The Owl Foundation in Vineland for rehabilitation.

The foundation's zoologist and wildlife rehabilitator, Annick Gionet Rollick, said there was concern about the fish hook in the bird's stomach, but there was no need for surgery. At some point after initial X-rays the bird spit up the hook.

"Most birds of prey, when they consume prey they consume them whole and the bones and fur are coughed back up. So, we suspect the fish hook got caught up in some of this material ... and was able to be evacuated safely," Gionet Rollick said.

Specialists decided to leave the pellets in the body because they aren't a concern to the health of the eagle. Gionet Rollick said it would cause more damage to the animal and the bird's ability to fly if surgery was performed.

The eagle was transported to Niagara because the Ottawa centre didn't have space required to properly rehabilitate it.

With the approval of Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority, The Owl Foundation chose to release the bald eagle at Chippawa Creek Conservation Centre, because it offers a large natural area, including water sources and nesting areas.

CONTINUED > PAGE 31

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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Niagara-on-the-Lake Horticultural Society Meeting
Tues., January 24:
Year in the Life of a Beekeeper
William Rowan
William Rowan is part of The Rosewood Winery on the Bench, whose apiary is his second love. He will discuss the benefits and hazards of his bee colony.
Community Centre 14 Anderson Lane
Refreshments @ 30pm Meeting 7:00pm
Visitors and new members welcome
www.notlhortsociety.com

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at the Ontario Early Years Centre
St. Michael Catholic School, 387 Line 3, NOTL
Friday, January 27, 2017
9:30 am to 12:00 pm
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MICHELLE ALLENBERG/WELLAND TRIBUNE/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

The Owl Foundation zoologist and wildlife rehabilitator Annick Gionet Rollick steps back as a bald eagle flies tree from a crate at Chippawa Creek Conservation Centre in Wellandport Sunday

MICHELLE ALLENBERG/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

The Owl Foundation zoologist and wildlife rehabilitator Annick Gionet Rollick steps back as a bald eagle flies free from a crate at Chippawa Creek Conservation Centre in Wellandport Sunday.

Bald eagle takes flight in Niagara

CONTINUED FROM > PAGE 30

"There's a nice creek bed she can follow if she wants to, it's a lot more quiet, so hopefully she will be able to get her bearings and figure things out," Gionet Rollick said. "Hopefully this is where she wants to be in the next year."

Gionet Rollick said there about two or three other bald eagle nest sites in Niagara. She hopes the newcomer will adapt and not bother the other eagles in the area.

"Being a juvenile she will have a lot of give. When they recognize that she is not a mature eagle they wont be as aggressive with her," she said.

It is illegal to hunt bald eagles. People who are convicted of killing, injuring or interfering with bald eagles under Ontario's Endangered Species Act could receive a fine up to $50,000.

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